



**Steven K. Young, Director**

**Former Juvenile Court Officer Admits Accepting Bribes and Public Misconduct**

DES MOINES, IOWA (February 22, 1006) – Timothy Dean Rockhold, 36, of Mercer, MO, recently pleaded guilty in Union County District Court to the crimes of Accepting Bribes, Unlawful Dissemination of Criminal History Data, and Non-felonious Misconduct in Office. The charges were filed after state and federal investigations of Rockhold’s relationship with Phoenix Family Services, a Greenfield, Iowa, counseling agency. Rockhold was working as a Juvenile Court Officer in the Fifth Judicial District of Iowa at the time he committed these crimes. He had held the position for 10 years prior to his resignation in October 2003.

Fourth Judicial District Court Judge J.C. Irvin scheduled Rockhold’s sentencing for April 10. Irvin was specially assigned to preside over the case by the Iowa Supreme Court because of Rockhold’s prior Judicial Branch employment. Rockhold, who worked out of a Creston office, served as a Juvenile Court Officer in several south-central Iowa counties. At sentencing, Rockhold faces imprisonment of up to 13 years and fines totaling \$17,500.

In connection with the Accepting Bribes charge, Rockhold admitted that he accepted payments from Phoenix Family Services pursuant to an arrangement or agreement that the payments would influence his judgment, decisions or discretion. The investigation uncovered that Rockhold recommended that Phoenix provide certain counseling services in connection with Juvenile Court subjects under his supervision. Phoenix then paid Rockhold approximately \$300 for each referral made to the agency. The payments from Phoenix to Rockhold occurred in the two years preceding Rockhold’s resignation. The other two crimes admitted by Rockhold also involved improprieties with Phoenix Family Services – illegally providing criminal history data and state property to the agency.

The prosecution argued that the arrangement enriched both Rockhold and the Phoenix Family Services. Related charges are pending against Eugene Alden Hutchinson, a former employee of Phoenix. Hutchinson is charged with Ongoing Criminal Conduct and four counts of Bribery. Hutchinson’s charges are in connection with alleged payments from Phoenix to Rockhold. The criminal charges against Hutchinson are merely accusations and he is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty by evidence beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation of Phoenix Family Services, Rockhold, and Hutchinson was a cooperative effort involving the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Office of Inspector General, the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals, and the Iowa Attorney General’s Office.

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